

Q U E R I E S

Humbly P R O P O S E D to the

C O N S I D E R A T I O N

O F T H E

P U B L I C.



D U B L I N:

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Q U E R I E S

COMPTON

P U B L I S H E R

D U B I N



Q U E R I E S

HUMBLY PROPOSED

To the Consideration of the P U B L I C.

AS the present Generation of Roman Catholicks in this Kingdom, have never attempted to disturb the publick Tranquillity, but have continued to lead quiet and peaceable Lives, even at Seasons when a very different Conduct was generally expected from them ; it would seem to be no more than common Equity to admit, that their inward Principles, must bear a suitable Correspondence with their external behaviour : And tho' it may be unnatural to suppose, that they can ever feel equal Satisfaction in living under a *Protestant*, as in the Imagination of seeing their Religion triumphant under a *Papist* Government ; yet such may be their Sense of the Ease and Advantages which they at present Possess, and of the fatal Consequences which must attend an unsuccessful Struggle on the one Hand, and such is the Horror which the native Generosity of the human Heart must naturally conceive, at the Thoughts of becoming Agents in Massacres, and all the other shocking Barbarities of a Civil War on the other, that an ingenuous Mind will find no Difficulty in supposing that, so long as it continues matter of

their own free Choice, they honestly and sincerely mean to persevere in their usual inoffensive Conduct and peaceable Submission to the present Civil Government.

Thus far has that honest Principle, *which thinketh no Evil*, a natural Tendency to beget in the Protestants of Ireland a Confidence towards their present Roman Catholic Countrymen; and in this Temper it is that the few following Queries are now recommended to the serious and dispassionate Consideration of the Public.

Q. 1. Whether we have not abundant Reason to apprehend that the united Powers of *France* and *Spain* are at present determined to exert their utmost Force and Art in distressing *Great-Britain*, and, if possible, utterly to destroy our Holy Religion, and put an End to our Excellent and long envied Civil Constitution and Legal Government?

Q. 2: Whether there is not too much Ground to suspect that exciting a Rebellion in *Ireland*, at a Time when a considerable Body of Rebels are actually in Arms in one Part of *Great-Britain*, and a Descent from *France* seems evidently to be intended against the other, may not possibly appear to those Powers as one material Step towards compassing those Ends?

Q. 3. In case Matters should appear to them in this Light, may not these Powers be presumed to have sufficient Influence with the Pope, and the other foreign Ecclesiastical Superiors of the Roman Catholics in this Kingdom, to bind it as an immediate and indispensable Duty on their Consciences, under no less Penalties than Excommunication in this World, and consequent eternal Damnation in the next, to extirpate by Fire and Sword, and every other Means of Violence, the Protestant Inhabitants of this Country, and to exert their whole Force, in Conjunction with those Powers, and under their Direction, to overturn the present Constitution of *Great Britain*, and to place the Pretender on the Throne?

Q. 4. If such Injunctions should be obtained and sent over, would not the Body of Roman Catholics look upon the Authority as too sacred to admit of any other Conduct, than an implicate Obedience; whatever Reluctance they might feel from the Principles of Humanity, to commit such Outrage on their Protestant Neighbours dwelling securely by them, and however unwise they might judge such an Attempt in Point of Policy?

Q. 5.

Q. 5. Would it not therefore be acting a truly humane and friendly Part towards the Roman Catholic Inhabitants, as well as an evidently wise one towards the Country in general, to devise and put in Execution such Measures, if any such can be devised, as without breaking in on the Exercise of their Religion, or doing any material Injury to their Persons or Properties, might so evidently disqualify them for executing such Injunctions as to make it appear to our Enemies Abroad, utterly absurd to impose them?

Q. 6. Were it a Point certain and well known abroad and at home, that the Roman Catholics of this Country are utterly destitute of Arms, would not this be one very material Circumstance towards discouraging our Enemies from attempting to excite a Rebellion among us?

Q. 7. Would not a general and diligent Search of all Places in the Possession of Roman Catholics throughout the Kingdom, together with a large Reward for every Discovery of concealed Arms, go a considerable way towards ascertaining this Point? And would not every actual Discovery of such Arms, or satisfactory Evidence, that Arms had been recently concealed, be so many additional and unanswerable Arguments for the Expediency of taking this and every other Precaution which the Principles of Justice and Humanity will permit?

Q. 8. It being all along taken for granted, that the Roman Catholic Inhabitants, are of themselves quite disinclined to create any Disturbance, would it not be perfectly consistent with these Principles, if, in all such critical Seasons as the present, some of the most considerable of the Roman Catholics throughout the Kingdom, should be required to reside in the Metropolis? and, with regard to all the other *Popish* Inhabitants, that Power be given by a Law to any two neighbouring Justices of the Peace; as soon as there shall happen any Insurrection or Invasion in any Part of this Kingdom, to summon all such Roman Catholic Inhabitants of that Country, living at no greater Distance than Miles from one or other of such Justices, to make their personal Appearance before them or either of them; and in Case any Roman Catholic, thus summoned, shall neglect to make his Appearance for the Space of Days, or after making his

his Appearance shall, during the Continuance of such Insurrection or Invasion, absent himself from his own Dwelling for the Space of Days, without Leave first obtained from the said Justices, That in either of these Cases, every Person thus offending shall be deemed as in actual Rebellion, and proceeded against as a Rebel ?

Q. 9. Would there be either Justice or Decency in complaining of the Inconveniencies, which, in some Instances, might attend such Regulations, seeing they are never to take Place, except in Cases where the Protestants must of Necessity be involved in much greater ; especially when it is remembered to what unhappy Cause it is principally owing, that *Britain* and *Ireland* are at any Time subject to have their domestic Tranquillity in this Manner disturbed ; and why they are not at all Times what, by the Nature of their Situation, the Number, Industry, and Wealth of their Inhabitants, and above all, by the excellent Spirit of their Constitution, they are at all Times qualified to be, the Guardians of the public Liberty, and the Terror and Scourge of all the tyrannical and persecuting Powers of *Europe* ? And would not some Regulations to this Effect, prove a farther Discouragement to our Enemies, from attempting to stir up a Rebellion in this Country, and likewise greatly contribute to strengthen a rational Confidence of Safety in the Breast of every well-affected and peaceable Inhabitant ?

Q. 10. Whether there be not at present, in a few contiguous Northern Counties of this Kingdom, such a Body of Protestants, as would, upon any Exigency, easily admit of their sending above forty Thousand of their Number for the Assistance of their Brethren and Defence of the common Cause, to any other part of the Kingdom, and at the same time leave a sufficient Number behind, for carrying on the necessary Labour of the Country, and for their own Defence ?

Q. 11. Whether the Unanimity and Zeal of the Protestants of this Kingdom in behalf of the present happy Constitution be not already abundantly well known to all our Popish Enemies ? And were it equally known that all these Protestants were properly provided with Arms, and put into a Condition to take the Field, on any Emergency, in defence of their Religion and Liberty, whether this, in conjunction with the other precautions, would not render all Attempts for stirring up a Rebellion here as absurd in the Contrivance, as they must prove Impracticable in the Execution ?

Q. 12.

Q. 12. Whether it be not a matter obvious to common Sense, and to be held as an established and important Maxim in regard to this Country, whenever the Danger becomes common, and *Britain* finds herself deeply engaged either by Insurrections within, or from actual or threatened Invasions, that in all such Cases *Ireland* must of Necessity owe it's Preservation and Safety to it's own Inhabitants? And whether it be not evident that it is only in such Circumstances as these that this Country can be brought into any continued State of Danger; seeing the standing Forces of *Great-Britain*, with those on the *Irish* Establishment, must be more than sufficient effectually to discourage our Enemies from making any separate Attempt on this Kingdom, whilst *Britain* remains in Safety and Peace?

Q. 13. Whether therefore it does not at present highly concern all Orders of Protestants in this Country, as having all that can be dear to them at Stake, in their several Stations, zealously to co-operate with our Government for enabling this Kingdom, as speedily as possible, to avail itself of its natural Strength? And whether this natural Strength be not in Reality so great, and so happily animated, as, when suitably supplied with the Means, and properly directed in the Use of them, must have a powerful and necessary Tendency to produce the most happy Effects? Would it not put an End to all unmanly and distracting Apprehensions of Danger from any Mischief which our Enemies can meditate against us, a Circumstance productive of much Happiness to the honest Inhabitants, and of signal Advantage to Trade and Industry? Would it not abate the Pride and confound the Devices of all our Enemies? And would it not put this Island into a Condition of affording, what it must always have a hearty Disposition to, important Succours to *Britain*, if ever the intimately connected Interests of the present Royal Family, our Legal Constitution, and the Cause of Liberty should come to stand in Need of them?

Q. 14. On the Whole, tho' in the Event it should after all, turn out that our Danger is not nigh so great as the Fearful amongst us at present imagine, or should it even be less than the Wise and the Brave are willing to admit, yet can any Evil be apprehended from its being as generally and with as much certainty known as the Nature of such Things will allow, that the Protestants of this Kingdom are universally furnished with Arms, and trained

trained to the Use of them, and that the Roman Catholic Inhabitants are not only disinclined but disabled from executing any mischievous and sanguinary purposes of our Enemies, by being utterly destitute of Arms, and unpractised in the Exercise of them? If there cannot, then, is there not still Argument sufficient for the principal Things hinted at in these Queries, arising from the Ease, and Confidence of Security which must hereby be established in the Minds of multitudes of his Majesty's honest Subjects in this Kingdom? And are they not, at this time, naturally led to look for such indulgence, from the benevolent Genius of our Excellent Government, which not only means that all who live under its Protection, should be in Reality safe in the Enjoyment of their Properties, Liberty and Religion, but that they should think and feel themselves so?

F I N I S.